

In re application of: William L. Courtney
Serial No. 09/935,351
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REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003. In that Action, the Examiner objected to the Specification under 35 U.S.C. §132 and rejected claims 15-17 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly adding new matter. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagen. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objections and rejections and offers the foregoing amendments and following remarks in support thereof.

Claims 12, 15 and 16 have been amended. Claim 32 has been added. No new matter has been inserted. Claims 1, 7, 12-17 and 20-32 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections.

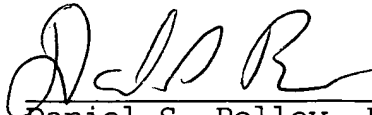
Applicant has amended the Specification and Claims to overcome the Examiner's objections and Section 112 rejections.

As to the Hagen patent cited against Claim 12, Hagen fails to show a collar that is self-closing and self-locking upon inflation around a user's neck and throat. The Hagen collar does not appear to be self-closing or self-locking, nor is it disposed around the user's throat upon inflation. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection based on Hagen.

Applicant has completely responded to the Office Action dated September 24, 2003. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional charges, including extension of time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 13-1130.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel S. Polley, Reg. No. 34,902
Malin, Haley & DiMaggio, P.A.
1936 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316
(954) 763-3303